

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 252

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jack C. Smith, of
Abingdon, Virginia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jack C. Smith; and

WHEREAS, Jack Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as Founder and Chairman of the Board of Food City, in which position he earned the respect of his peers, his employees, and his customers alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, the son of Curtis and Elizabeth Belcher Smith, Jack Smith graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1947, and served seven years of active duty in the United States Navy before returning home to Grundy, Virginia , where he opened his first Piggly Wiggly store in 1955, with his three special stockholders: his father, Curtis Smith; uncle, Earl Smith; and cousin, Ernest Smith; and

WHEREAS, under Jack Smith's astute leadership that first store soon multiplied; in addition, the family acquired several grocery store chains and adopted the Food City brand name; and

WHEREAS, headquartered in Abingdon, Virginia, K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc. operates ninety-five Food City and Super Dollar supermarkets throughout the Tri-State region of Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, and Northeast Tennessee; Mr. Smith served as Food City's Chief Executive Officer until passing the torch to his son, Steven C. Smith, in 2001; and

WHEREAS, a pioneer in the grocery business, Jack Smith will be remembered as a man of great vision and wisdom; he received many awards and honors throughout his illustrious

career, including the Tennessee Grocer's prestigious 1996 Grocer of the Year Award and the Junior Achievement Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia Business Hall of Fame Laureate in 1999; and

WHEREAS, he lent his professional talents to a variety of boards, including the Federal Reserve Board of Richmond, Virginia, the Virginia Food Dealers Association Board of Directors, which he served as President in 1981, and the Grundy Rotary Club; he was also a longtime member of the National Grocers Association, from which he received the 2002 Clarence G. Adamy "Great American" Award, declaring Mr. Smith to be "a man of many accomplishments and a true gentleman"; and

WHEREAS, Jack Smith was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of fifty-six years, Jewel "Judy" Garland Smith in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Steven C. and Debbie Smith; two daughters and sons-in-law, Stephanie and Frank David, and Sharon and Thomas Hembree; one sister-in-law, Lone Saylor; two brothers-in-law, Bob Watts and Claude Garland, with wife, Angela Garland; six grandchildren, Alison David, Joshua David, Drew Hembree, Melanie Hembree, Katie Smith, and Chloe Smith; and one special cousin, Lee Smith; and

WHEREAS, Jack C. Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional businessman, public servant, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jack C. Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.